

Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks

The life of Mary Elizabeth Baum, my mother, began on August 10, 1873, at Heber City, Utah, in the mountain circled Wasatch Valley.

Her parents witnessed the vicissitudes of the early saints, her father, as a boy of twelve, having seen the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum Smith immediately after the martyrdom. Both her mother and father crossed the plains in covered wagons. They shared the experiences of pioneering the Wasatch Valley. Her father drove the first wagon team to the head of the Provo River. The parents moved to Heber City during the first year of its settlement and Mary Elizabeth, born there thirteen years later, spent her childhood and youth in the passing pioneer scene.

She had her first trip by train to be present at the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple on April 6, 1893.

Her education began in a one-room school and continued under improving conditions until she became a teacher during the year before her marriage. She became the bride of David C. Hanks, also of Heber City, on December 6, 1893, and the young couple began their married life under the severe financial depression of that time. Better times lay ahead, however, as her husband established a business in Heber City and became a civic leader.

Five children came into their home. Harvard David, George Augustus, (deceased in 1919,) Ephraim Earl, Theodore Verender and one daughter, Ida Mae.

The family moved to Shelley, Idaho in 1908, and later to the Teton Basin. After Mary Elizabeth went back to Heber City in 1912, the marriage was terminated by divorce. With her children she came to Nampa, Idaho, in 1919 after the return of her son Harvard from France and World War I. There she resided until her death on June 9, 1957.

She retained her keenness of mind and memory to the last, recalling the span from the ox team to the jet airplane, and from the home-made candle to the atomic age.

In her last years, under a series of afflictions, her patience and cheerfulness were admired by all who knew her. She was always more considerate of others than of herself, and to its very close her life cast the radiance of love and helpfulness on all those within its circle.

---Ida Mae Hanks---

"God made Thee, dear Mother then threw out the mold,
And gave Thee to me with your heart pure as gold.
An Ocean Of Love at my feet you have laid;
You're the best little Mother that God ever made."

Sunday 9 June, 1957---From the Provo Daily Herald:
Mary E. Baum Hanks, Heber Woman Dies in Idaho.

HEBER-- Funeral services for Mary E. Baum Hanks, 83, a native of Heber, who died Sunday at Nampa, Idaho., hospital will be conducted Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Olpin mortuary in Heber. Don Hickson, bishop of the Heber Second LDS Ward will officiate. Burial will be in the Heber Cemetery.

Mrs. Hanks was born Aug. 10, 1873, in Heber a daughter of Isaac and Melissa Sessions Baum. She was married to David C. Hanks. Surviving are three sons and one daughter, Ted, Harvard and May Hanks all of Nampa and Earl Hanks, Portland, Oregon.

Comments by Teton H. Jackman

My father Arthur Hanks was a half brother to Aunt Mary's Husband, David Hanks. We were living on a fruit farm six miles south of Nampa they lived on a farm five miles North of Nampa. The first I remember aunt Mary's family they came to spend Thanksgiving day with us. Dady had bought a billy goat and harness and small wagon with a raised seat at an auction sale in Nampa. We got Mae to take her turn for a ride. The goat was getting tired of our fun and he really gave Mae a fast ride all around the yard. She was so provoked that she did not want any more rides that day.

We always enjoyed going out to Aunt Mary's home. They milked a number of cows and worked early and late on their farm.

Harvard and his wife, Mary Meyers, were married 8 Sept., 1925. They took the farm as their responsibility and are still living there. Aunt Mary moved into Nampa. Her last home was at 408-17 Ave. So. Mae is still living in the home.

Harvard and Mary were the parents of four girls and three sons. They now have 16 grand children.

Ephraim Earl married Luella Collett 12 June, 1924. They have four children. They are living in Portland, Ore.

George Augustus born 20 Dec, 1896 in Heber, Utah. Died 7 Sept, 1919, in Driggs. He had gone out camping. As he was unloading the things, his gun went off killing him instantly. He had been living with his father and family in Driggs at this time.

Ida Mae teaches English in Boise High Sch. We enjoyed taking her with us to the Floral Ranch and Caineville in June, 1959.

Theodore is teaching school in Pocatello, Idaho.

Ida Mae has done extensive travel and a great deal of research.

(George Augustus was baptized by Victor Ray Walker. His endowment work was done in the Salt Lake Temple 19 Jan., 1925 by a Charles W. Jackson.